

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Graves Ms. Johnson, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Mr. Winn and Mr. Protogyrou.

He thereupon called for Council interests.

A. COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Riddick reiterated his belief that Council made a mistake in negotiations concerning Waterside. He opposes the Cordish Group building apartments or condos or to add rooftop parking on Waterside. Councilwoman Johnson added that there seems to be rumors about what will be done with the property, and that Council needs to clarify publicly what the plans are for the property. Councilman Riddick added that any more discussions concerning Waterside should be open to the public. He asked that Council discuss Waterside, housing and the regional jail at Council's retreat.
2. Councilman Winn asked if construction has begun on the new school, that the Ocean View Little League will have a designated home field by spring.
3. Councilwoman Whibley a) asked that appropriate staff get ahead of problems at the 43rd Street condominiums, noting that cars are parking on the grass, trash cans are being left at the curb, landscaping is not being taken care of, et cetera, b) asked for clarification on requirements for contractors removing asbestos from one-story single-family units, noting there are complaints from the Cottage Cove Civic League that these contractors have no safeguards in place, and c) reiterated a request to lower the speed limit on Jamestown Crescent.
4. Vice Mayor Williams Graves asked for an update with regard to the construction on Princess Anne Road at Booker T. Washington High School. She suggested that a public update should be given as well.
5. Councilman Smigiel: a) asked for an update on red light cameras and specifically on plans for their expansion to other intersections, b) asked if the No Right Turn on Red sign is needed at the intersection of Waterside Drive and St. Paul's Boulevard as you come off the ramp from the interstate.

6. Citing a recent article in the Wall Street Journal regarding Airbus' opening a plant in Mobile, Alabama, Councilman Protogyrou asked how we might attract similar corporations to Norfolk. Mayor Fraim added that we also need assistance from the state to bring more opportunities to Norfolk.
7. Councilman Protogyrou asked for updates on major construction projects by way of a windshield-type graph showing what work has been completed on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and to include what monies have been spent to date.
8. With regard to the Poverty Commission Interventions, Councilman Riddick asked to make sure that the business community is involved and helping to find employment for citizens with non-violent felony convictions in their past.
9. With regard to Docket Item R-3, Councilman Protogyrou asked that we look at giving economic incentives to attract similar breweries to Norfolk. Councilman Smigiel suggested one incentive might be with using Norfolk's water. Vice Mayor Williams Graves suggested incentives for locating to other areas of the city.
10. With regard to Docket Item R-8 and R-8A, Councilman Protogyrou stated that this is a busy intersection and he suggested that the city install a crosswalk and appropriate lighting for pedestrians crossing the street from the beach to the 7-Eleven.
11. With regard to Docket Item R-19, Councilman Protogyrou noted that our drug court has been a model for the State of Virginia and that other cities have no help whatsoever. He stressed that any additional funding would be beneficial.

B. POVERTY COMMISSION-INTERVENTIONS

Susan Perry, Special Assistant to the City Manager, reported:

- Funded initiatives include: **1)** Newborn Screening and Referral Program; **2)** Quality improvements initiative for childcare providers; **3)** United for Children Summer Enrichment Program Expansion; **4)** Open Campus High School; **5)** Libraries as Workforce Development Centers; and **6)** Commercial Corridor Neighborhood Grant Program.
- Planned funding for 2016 will allow for additional initiatives.

C. UNITED FOR CHILDREN

Carol McCormack and Luciano Ramos, from the United Way and Rohan Cumberbatch-Smith, Principal of Jacox Elementary, reported on progress made by students in the Summer Enrichment Program with the principal of Jacox reporting his findings. Ms. McCormack reported planning is underway with Norfolk Public Schools for next summer.

D. ELEVATE EARLY EDUCATION – E3

Lisa Howard, President and CEO of Elevate Early Education, reported on the reason early childhood education is vital for children's educational success. She noted the E3 School in Park Place opened in February, and has a curriculum developed by the University of Virginia.

E. PLANNING ITEMS ON AGENDA

George Homewood, Director of Planning, reviewed the following:

MP ISLAND CAFÉ

The request is to expand the existing entertainment facility for events such as wedding receptions, graduations. The Lake Taylor Civic League expressed concerns at the City Planning Commission meeting; the Commission asked the applicant to meet with the civic league and the applicant declined to do so. By a majority vote the City Planning Commission denied the application. Since that time the applicant met with the civic league and they no longer have an issue with the expansion. However, the civic league has asked that an 18-month sunset clause be placed on this expansion. Mr. Homewood explained that staff typically does not recommend a sunset clause for existing businesses; therefore, they make no recommendation. Vice Mayor Williams Graves noted that the other restaurants around MP Island Café are permitted to have these types of events. She added that there have been no police service calls to MP Island Café.

BUD'S USED TIRES AND BRAKE

The existing business is located on Military Highway, and the owner would like to purchase this site to do auto repair. The city requires that all auto repair be done inside an enclosed building. The existing building's service bays are filled with tires and the applicant is unable to get the vehicles completely inside. He has been cited by enforcement staff for not complying with the requirement. The City Planning Commission, by a 4-2 vote, approved the application based on staff's recommendation, the site location and landscaping improvements. The City Planning Commission members who voted for denial were concerned about what would happen to the existing location.

7-ELEVEN OCEAN VIEW

A coastal character design is proposed, and the parking and gas islands will be located at the rear of the building which will move activity away from the Royal Mace Apartments. In addition, extensive landscaping is proposed. As part of their application, 7-Eleven has pledged to remove the existing store. Staff recommended approval of the application and the City Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval. The civic leagues from the surrounding area voted in favor of the application (Cottage Line, Bayview, Greater Pinewell and Pinewell by the Bay). Councilman Smigiel noted that communications in opposition were from citizens who did not participate in any of the civic league meetings concerning the application. He stated that the civic leagues have spent a lot of time working with 7-Eleven on the site plan and building design. He noted that the property had been vacant and for sale for approximately three years. He added that the Master Plan for Ocean View has not been implemented because of changes to eminent domain law.

F. CLOSED SESSION

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause (s) 3 of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act**, as amended:

- (3) Discussion of the disposition of publicly owned real property at 2612 Monticello Avenue.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, Protogyrou, Riddick, Smigiel, Whibley, Winn and Fraim.

No: None.